



# EDGARTOWN

## Dukes County



[NARRATIVE](#)  
[GEOGRAPHY](#)  
[GOVERNMENT](#)  
[DEMOGRAPHICS](#)  
[HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS](#)  
[TRANSPORTATION](#)  
[CULTURE AND RECREATION](#)  
[MISCELLANEOUS](#)



## NARRATIVE

### **Narrative**

Seen by some to be one of New England's most elegant communities, Edgartown was Martha's Vineyard's first colonial settlement and has been the county seat since 1642. The stately Greek Revival houses built by the whaling captains have been carefully maintained and make the town a seaport village preserved from the early 19th century.

Main Street views include the harbor and waterfront and although the tall square-riggers that sailed all the world's oceans have passed from the scene, the heritage of these vessels and their captains remains. For the past hundred years, Edgartown has been one of the world's great yachting centers. The town is also known for its architecture with many buildings that pre-date the whaling era and still serve as family homes. Among the oldest buildings are the Vincent House, built in 1672, the Thomas Cooke House, now a museum, and the offices of the Vineyard Gazette. The venerable Old Whaling Church is now a performing arts center.

Public beaches offer surf bathing and bluefish and bass fishing. On Felix Neck, about three miles outside the center of town, 200 acres owned by the Massachusetts Audubon Society provide marked trails and a program of wildlife management and conservation education. Special activities for all age groups are offered throughout the year.

(Narrative supplied by community)



# GEOGRAPHY

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## Location

Located on Martha's Vineyard, an island 20 miles long and 10 miles wide situated five miles south of the southwest tip of Cape Cod. Edgartown is bordered by Oak Bluffs and Nantucket Sound on the north, Katama Bay on the east, the Atlantic Ocean on the south, and West Tisbury on the west. Edgartown is separated from Chappaquiddick Island by Katama Bay.

**Total Area:** 34.69 sq. miles

**Land Area:** 27.01 sq. miles

**Population:** 3,062

**Density:** 113 per sq. mile

## Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Edgartown Station)

Normal temperature in January.....29.3°F

Normal temperature in July.....69.8°F

Normal annual precipitation.....45.3"

## U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Edgartown, Vineyard Haven, Tisbury Great Pond

## Regional Planning Agency

Martha's Vineyard

## Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)



# GOVERNMENT

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## Municipal Offices

Main Number: (508) 627-6100

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

## Form of Government

Board of Selectmen  
Executive Secretary  
Open Town Meeting

## Year Incorporated

As a town: 1671

## Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	2,230		
Democrats	664	29.8	%
Republicans	535	24.0	%
Other parties	0	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	1,031	46.2	%

## Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



# DEMOGRAPHICS

**Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000**

Geographic Area: Edgartown town, Dukes County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	3,779	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	3,779	100.0
Male.....	1,912	50.6	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	44	12
Female.....	1,867	49.4	Mexican.....	4	0.1
Under 5 years.....	220	5.8	Puerto Rican.....	7	0.2
5 to 9 years.....	212	5.6	Cuban.....	4	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	264	7.0	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	29	0.8
15 to 19 years.....	223	5.9	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	3,735	98.8
20 to 24 years.....	145	3.8	White alone.....	3,500	92.6
25 to 34 years.....	449	11.9	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	718	19.0	Total population.....	3,779	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	690	18.3	In households.....	3,714	98.3
55 to 59 years.....	233	6.2	Householder.....	1,582	41.9
60 to 64 years.....	148	3.9	Spouse.....	755	20.0
65 to 74 years.....	281	7.4	Child.....	973	25.7
75 to 84 years.....	159	4.2	Own child under 18 years.....	799	21.1
85 years and over.....	37	1.0	Other relatives.....	112	3.0
Median age (years).....	40.3	(X)	Under 18 years.....	29	0.8
18 years and over.....	2,936	77.7	Nonrelatives.....	292	7.7
Male.....	1,462	38.7	Unmarried partner.....	94	2.5
Female.....	1,474	39.0	In group quarters.....	65	1.7
21 years and over.....	2,826	74.8	Institutionalized population.....	45	1.2
62 years and over.....	560	14.8	Noninstitutionalized population.....	20	0.5
65 years and over.....	477	12.6	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	203	5.4	Total households.....	1,582	100.0
Female.....	274	7.3	Family households (families).....	957	60.5
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	448	28.3
One race.....	3,691	97.7	Married-couple family.....	755	47.7
White.....	3,527	93.3	With own children under 18 years.....	325	20.5
Black or African American.....	67	1.8	Female householder, no husband present.....	136	8.6
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	17	0.4	With own children under 18 years.....	89	5.6
Asian.....	20	0.5	Nonfamily households.....	625	39.5
Asian Indian.....	2	0.1	Householder living alone.....	476	30.1
Chinese.....	5	0.1	Householder 65 years and over.....	163	10.3
Filipino.....	2	0.1	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	473	29.9
Japanese.....	1	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	367	23.2
Korean.....	5	0.1	Average household size.....	2.35	(X)
Vietnamese.....	5	0.1	Average family size.....	2.92	(X)
Other Asian <sup>1</sup> .....	-	-	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	2	0.1	Total housing units.....	4,360	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	1	-	Occupied housing units.....	1,582	36.3
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	2,778	63.7
Samoa.....	1	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander <sup>2</sup> .....	-	-	occasional use.....	2,642	60.6
Some other race.....	58	1.5	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.9	(X)
Two or more races.....	88	2.3	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	4.0	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: <sup>3</sup>			Occupied housing units.....	1,582	100.0
White.....	3,604	95.4	Owner-occupied housing units.....	1,147	72.5
Black or African American.....	83	2.2	Renter-occupied housing units.....	435	27.5
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	56	1.5	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.37	(X)
Asian.....	27	0.7	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.29	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	7	0.2			
Some other race.....	98	2.6			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

<sup>2</sup> Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

<sup>3</sup> In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



# HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

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**Home Sales** (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

**Subsidized Housing Units** (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

**Public Housing Units** (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 0

Conventional Federal: 0

**Rental Assistance**(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP): 0

Federal (Section 8): 0



# TRANSPORTATION

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## TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Edgartown is located on Martha's Vineyard. Ferry service is the vital link to and from the Island. The Wood's Hole, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Steamship Authority provides year-round ferry service. The Chappaquiddick Ferry offers frequent daily service year-round to Edgartown.

### Major Highways

The principal highways are the Edgartown-West Tisbury Road, the Edgartown-Vineyard Haven Road, and Beach Road, which connects Vineyard Haven to Edgartown via Oak Bluffs.

### Rail

There is no freight or passenger rail service on Martha's Vineyard.

### Bus

Edgartown is a member of the Martha's Vineyard Transit Authority (MVTA), which provides paratransit services for the elderly and disabled. Island Transport runs a seasonal trolley service within downtown Edgartown and to South Beach/Katama, and also provides fixed route bus service to other towns, the port, and the airport, during the tourist season.

### Other

Martha's Vineyard Airport, a Primary Commercial Service (PR) facility, is the major airport on the island with 2 asphalt runways 5,499'x 150' and 3,297' x 150'. Instrument approaches available: Precision and non-precision.



# CULTURE AND RECREATION

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## LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

## MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

The Vineyard Museum

Cooke and School Streets

(508) 627-4441

## RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

**Recreational Facilities** (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



# MISCELLANEOUS

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## HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

### Hospitals

None

### Long Term Care

None

### Hospices

None

### Rest Homes

None

### UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)



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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.